

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ROME 07550 091827Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CU-02 MCT-01 /061 W

-----100405Z 099669 /20

R 091700Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4474

INFO AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL GENOA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 7550

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, IT

SUBJECT: BONIFACIO OUTLINES PUBLIC ORDER PROPOSALS AS PRESS

SPECULATION ON THE POSSIBILITY OF FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT

IN STUDENT DISORDERS INCREASES

REF: A) ROME 7275; B) ROME 6110

SUMMARY. IN A MAY 6 PRESS CONFERENCE JUSTICE MINISTER BONIFACIO OUTLINED SOME OF THE STEPS BEING TAKEN TO DEAL WITH THE CRISIS OF PUBLIC ORDER, STRESSING IN PARTICULAR MEASURES TO IMPROVE PRISON SECURITY AND END THE TOO-LENIENT SENTENCING OF THOSE CONVICTED OF SERIOUS CRIMES. THE WEEKEND WAS MARKED BY TWO PRISON RIOTS AND SEVERAL ESCAPES WHILE PRESS SPECULATION ON THE POSSIBILITY OF FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT IN THE FINANCING AND ORCHESTRATION OF WIDESPREAD POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND STUDENT DISORDERS INCREASED. END SUMMARY.

1. IN A MAY 6 PRESS CONFERENCE JUSTICE MINISTER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ROME 07550 091827Z

BONIFACIO OUTLINED STEPS WHICH HIS MINISTRY WAS TAKING TO COMBAT THE RISING TIDE OF VIOLENCE AND LAWLESSNESS AND IMPROVE SECURITY IN ITALY'S OVERCROWDED PRISONS. BONIFACIO STATED HIS INTENTION TO USE PANELS OF JUDGES TO TRY CASES FOR WHICH JURORS COULD NOT BE FOUND (SEE REF. A) AND ANNOUNCED THAT AN EARLIER PLAN TO PLACE CARABINIERI ON GUARD OUTSIDE PRISON WALLS AS A

SUPPLEMENT TO THE REGULAR GUARD FORCE WILL BE INSTITUTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. MEASURES TO EXPAND THE PRISON GUARD FORCE, ISOLATE THE MORE DANGEROUS CONVICTS, AND RELIEVE OVERCROWDING BY IMPOSING PENALTIES OTHER THAN INCARCERATION FOR MINOR CRIMES WERE PUT FORWARD AS WELL. BONIFACIO ALSO STATES THAT HE WAS TAKING STEPS TO SPEED UP THE JUDICIAL PROCESS AND TO ENSURE HARSH SENTENCES FOR THOSE CONVICTED OF SERIOUS CRIMES. THE LATTER INSTRUCTION WAS REFLECTED THE FOLLOWING DAY IN EIGHT LIFE SENTENCES HANDED DOWN IN A KIDNAPPING/MURDER CASE IN NOVARA.

2. THE NEED FOR PRISON REFORM WAS GRAPHICALLY ILLUSTRATED DURING THE WEEKEND AS CARABINIERI AND POLICE WERE FORCED TO USE TEAR GAS TO QUELL A RIOT AT SAN VITTORE PRISON IN MILAN. FIFTEEN INMATES FLED A YOUTH DETENTION CENTER IN TURIN DURING A REVOLT ON MAY 6, ONLY SIX OF WHOM HAVE THUS FAR BEEN RECAPTURED. FIVE CONVICTS ESCAPED FROM A FACILITY IN RAVENNA ON MAY 8 WHILE THE ATTEMPT OF FOUR OTHERS TO FLEE THE PENAL COLONY ON THE ISLAND OF PIANOSA WAS THWARTED ONLY WHEN A BOAT THEY HAD STOLEN CAPSIZED IN ROUGH SEAS. IN BERGAMO A PRISON GUARD WAS HELD HOSTAGE FOR SEVERAL HOURS ON MAY 8 WHILE HIS CAPTOR NEGOTIATED TRANSFER TO ANOTHER PRISON.

3. ELSEWHERE, SPECULATION HAS INCREASED ON THE POSSIBILITY OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS OR ORGANIZATIONS IN POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND STUDENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ROME 07550 091827Z

DISORDERS IN ITALY. FRONT PAGE EDITORIALS IN CORRIERE DELLA SERA ON MAY 7 AND 8 DISMISSED THE POSSIBILITY OF CIA INVOLVEMENT (SEE REF B) AND MENTIONED CZECH, LYBIAN, OR EAST GERMAN CONNECTIONS AS MORE PROBABLE, WHILE LAMENTING THE FACT THAT GOI INTELLIGENCE ORGANS CANNOT PROVIDE A DEFINITE ANSWER. IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE PCI WEEKLY RINASCITA FASCIST GROUPS IN WEST GERMANY AND SPAIN WERE CITED AS THE MOST LIKELY SOURCES OF FOREIGN FINANCING FOR BOTH RIGHT AND LEFT WING TERRORISTS. GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN, INCLUDING INTERIOR MINISTER COSSIGA, HAVE REPEATEDLY DENIED HAVING ANY EVIDENCE OF FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT WITH TERRORIST GROUPS IN ITALY. GARDNER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, LAW, PRESS CONFERENCES, CIVIL DISORDERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 09-May-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977ROME07550  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770163-0748  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** ROME  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770578/aaaacpqv.tel  
**Line Count:** 110  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 5876c397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 ROME 7275, 77 ROME 6110  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2595577  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BONIFACIO OUTLINES PUBLIC ORDER PROPOSALS AS PRESS SPECULATION ON THE POSSIBILITY OF FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT IN STUDENT DISORDERS INCREASES  
**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, IT, (BONIFACIO, FRANCESCO PAOLO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/5876c397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009